

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01 OMB-01 ACDA-05 /093 W

----- 120548

R 230935Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4893

INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN NY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SF, AO, OAU

SUBJ: SAG OFFICERS COMMENT ON ANGOLA AND OAU

C1. DURING COURSE OF DISCUSSION WITH VISITING AF/I

DIRECTOR ZACHARY JANUARY 22, DEPUTY SECRETARY MULTILATERAL

RELATIONS DIV. AMBASSADOR BOTHA AND AMERICAN AFFAIRS

OFFICER STEWARD COMMENTED AT SOME LENGTH ON ANGOLA ISSUE.

BOTHA NOTED THAT WHEN US HAD CALLED FOR SAG ASSISTANCE IN

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PART OF THE WORLD WHERE SAG HAD NO DIRECT INTERESTS, (KOREA)

SAG HAD RESPONDED AND SACRIFICE SOME OF ITS YOUTH, BUT NOW WHEN MANIFEST COMMUNIST THREAT LOOMED LARGE IN SAG CONCERNS, AMERICA SEEMED UNABLE TO RISE TO RESPOND. HOWEVER GLOOMY OUTLOOK MIGHT BE NOW, ESPECIALLY WITH MPLA STRENGTH GROWING, SOUTH AFRICA WOULD NOT, AS ADMIRAL BIERMAN HAD SAID PUBLICLY, DEFEND WESTERN INTERESTS TO THE LAST SOUTH AFRICAN. RESPONDING TO QUESTION OF WHAT SAG WOULD DO IF AND WHEN HOSTILE AND WELL ARMED MPLA FORCE ARRIVED AT CUNENE VALLEY, STEWARD SAID "WE WILL CERTAINLY DEFEND THAT SET OF INTERESTS."

2. SOVIET INTERVENTION AND DEADLOCK OF OAU MEETING WAS NOT WITHOUT BENEFIT TO SOUTH AFRICA, DFA OFFICERS NOTED. DESPITE TRADITIONAL DIFFERENCES WITH SAG, A SIZEABLE NUMBER OF AFRICAN STATES HAD CONCLUDED THAT CUBANS AND SOVIETS REPRESENTED MAJOR THREAT. WHATEVER SAG MAY HAVE DONE WAS CLEARLY PARALLELING THEIR CONCERNS IN RESISTING SOVIET INROADS, AND SAG EXPECTED ITS DIALOGUE WITH MANY OF THESE WOULD BE STRENGTHENED AS A CONSEQUENCE. IMPLICIT IN THIS THREAD OF THOUGHT WAS JUDGMENT THAT US HAD SHOWN ITSELF UNRELIABLE ALLY EVEN WHERE CHALLENGE WAS CLEAR, FORCING BLACK STATES TO CONSIDER WHETHER THEY MUST COMPROMISE WITH PRO-SOVIETS OR LOOK NOW MORE FAVORABLY ON SAG AS SOURCE OF STRENGTH AND ASSISTANCE.
BOWDLER

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